

Max E. Peuschel House
East side of County Trunk N
1/2 mile North of County Trunk M
1-1/2 miles North of State Route 167
Thiensville Vicinity
Ozaukee County, Wis.

HABS No. WIS-155

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MAX E. PEUSCHEL HOUSE

Location: East side of County Trunk N, 1/2 mile north of County Trunk M, 1-1/2 miles north of State Route 167, Thiensville Vicinity, Ozaukee County, Wis.

Present Owner: Max E. Peuschel, Route 1, Box 282, Thiensville, Wis.

Present Occupant: Unoccupied.

Present Use: Unoccupied.

Brief Statement of Significance: This stone house with contemporary outbuildings is representative of a type of building in Wisconsin from the mid-nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Detailed knowledge of the house is lacking, except that it has been in the Peuschel family for three generations. The present Mr. Peuschel is an elderly man and most of the family have died out. According to his recollection, the property was originally acquired by his grandfather, John Peuschel, who came to Thiensville from Minnesota ca. 1850, having been a German immigrant from the Province of Thuringia.
2. Date of erection: John Peuschel apparently erected it ca. 1850 shortly after his arrival in Thiensville.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Internal evidence indicates that the house was built in several phases. The door leading from the main block of the house to the rear wing (Door #5 on the drawings) indicates that the main block was the original structure; the mouldings, transom, location in the plan, and general appearance indicate that this was originally a back door. Two types of lintels in the rear wing indicate that it was built in two phases. A line in the plaster and changes to the summer beam in the cellar indicate that the direction of the basement stair was changed.
4. Important old views: There is, in the house, a photograph

of the building while it was still in use and not in its present neglected state. The date of the photograph is unknown, and it affords little information that cannot be obtained in a study of the building.

5. Reference: Interview with Max E. Peuschel, Route 1, Box 282, Thiensville, Wisconsin.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a typical Wisconsin stone farm house of the mid 19th century, of particular interest for the character of its stonework.
2. Condition of fabric: Masonry walls are all intact but the interior, roof, etc., are neglected and partly ruinous.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 39' x 57', 1-1/2 stories.
2. Foundations: Native fieldstone.
3. Wall construction: All walls are of stone masonry construction, 1'-10" thick. The walls are built of native fieldstone laid up in rubble fashion and bedded in mortar without coursing. At all exterior corners, limestone quoins, carefully cut and tooled, enclose the rubble walls. The rubble wall is thickly coated with plaster on the exterior surface, and scored lines in the plaster coating continue the lines of the quoins on the three main elevations. The walls are finished inside with plaster and, at least in some places, this is done on wood lath and furring. In other places, the plastering seems to be done directly on the masonry.
4. Chimneys: Four chimneys, one at each end of the main block and two in the wing. All the chimneys are enclosed in the stone walls except the small chimney in the rear room which was apparently used for the smoke house. All chimneys above the roof line are of brick.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front door is 4 panel with

narrow side lights and transom and with exterior reeded wood trim. The door from main block to wing originally was an exterior door of 6 panels with transom. Other exterior doors are of various types, mostly replacements.

- b. Windows: Typical exterior windows are double hung 9" by 12" lights; windows in main block have been largely replaced with 4-lt. sash. Window and door lintels and sills in the main block are of wood. Lintels in rear wing are stone or brick jack-arches.

6. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled on both main block and one-story wing; wood shingles.
- b. Framing: Roof framing on the wing consists of log rafters approximately 3'-0" o.c. Framing of the main block is concealed by plaster ceiling.
- c. Cornice: A simple wood cornice with fascia, bed-mold, and frieze - all of wood - surrounds the main block. On the wing is a simple boxed cornice with fascia board.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

- 1. Floor plans: The building consists of a two story main block and a one story wing addition towards the west. The main block has a center hall at first floor level, with a stair, and two large rooms toward the front and two smaller rooms toward the rear. The second floor consists of two large rooms on either side of the central stair hall. The wing, which is only one story in height, consists of a large room directly behind the main block and two smaller rooms toward the rear; the northwest one has a floor dropped to grade and, at least at some time, was used as a smoke house. A part basement occurs under the main block.
- 2. Stairways: One central stairway in the main block of simple design and construction. Basement stair has been moved from original position.
- 3. Flooring: Wide wood planks throughout except where patching and replacement with three inch T & G has taken place.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster throughout except in the rear room of the wing where walls and ceilings are unfinished.
- 5. Doorways and doors: 6 panel interior doors.

6. Trim: Simple 4" trim throughout. Windows and exterior doors have deep masonry reveals. No chimney pieces.
7. Hardware: All non-descript service type.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Entirely by stoves, no fireplaces.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces west, and is set back from the highway. It forms, with the various out-buildings, a typical Wisconsin farm group.
2. Outbuildings: At least two of the outbuildings, a barn and an adjacent shed, are of the same construction and appear to be contemporary with the house, making a consistent group.
3. Landscaping: No formal landscaping and the site is overgrown. An old apple orchard occupies the north side of the lot.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect,
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